

Recognitions at July 2007 State Board Meeting

- **Science and Engineering fair winner claims \$8,000 prize and laptop**

State Superintendent of Education Jim Rex congratulates Graham van Schaik, a recent graduate of Spring Valley High School, who won first place in Environmental Science and the Best of Show award at the International Science and Engineering Fair in New Mexico in the spring. Graham's prizes included \$8,000 and a laptop computer. He placed second in the fair last year. It's the largest pre-collegiate science and engineering competition in the world, drawing over 1,500 participants from the U.S. and 50 other countries. Spring Valley High also receives \$1,000 as a result of Graham's first-place finish.



- **School for Deaf and Blind teacher taking part in Toyota program for educators**

State Superintendent Jim Rex and State Board of Education member Libby Swad congratulate J. Lewis Preston (right), a teacher at South Carolina's School for the Deaf and Blind, who's been chosen to take part in the 2007 Toyota International Teacher Program. Preston is one of 24 teachers selected from nearly 400 applicants. He will go to the Galapagos Islands. The Toyota program – which has been in existence for nine years and has hosted over 500 high school teachers – is designed to broaden the global perspectives of educators, their students and their communities.



- **Greenview Elementary School team places first in Odyssey of Mind**

Several members of the Odyssey of the Mind team from A.J. Lewis Greenview Elementary in Richland School District One receive congratulations from school principal Delores Gilliard and State Superintendent Jim Rex after placing first in the World Finals in late May. The team – known as the Busy Bodies – won the state championship to earn the right to compete against 65 other teams from schools around the nation and world, including students from Canada, China and South Korea.

Odyssey of the Mind challenges students to solve problems using their creative skills and quick-thinking abilities. Problems range from building mechanical devices to performing original interpretations of literary classics. Team members are Destiny Tolbert, Ebony English, Ayanna Suber, Sarah Nesbit, Maya Dilligard, Desia Truesdale and KaDeedra Elkins. Coaches are John and Sonya Tolbert.

- **National PTA Reflection winners for South Carolina public schools**

State Board of Education members Cindy Clark (far right) and Dr. Daniel Varat (left in back row) join with State Superintendent Jim Rex to congratulate South Carolina's winners in the National PTA Reflections program. It recognizes students' abilities in literature, music, visual arts and photography. Winners shown are (from left) Andrew Lewis (literature), Northwood Middle School, Greenville County; Patrick Burns (dance), Jennie Moore Elementary School, Charleston County; and Anna Gardner (literature), Mauldin Elementary School, Greenville County.



- **Helen Stokes Scholarship recipients**

Brantley Heron of North Augusta High School and Derek Bush of Fort Dorchester High School (both front row, holding certificates) are recognized as recipients of the Helen Stokes Scholarship awarded annually by the South Carolina PTA for seniors pursuing higher education at a college or university in the state. Extending their congratulations are State Board members (from left) Lisa Stokes, Patsy Pye, Amelia Herlong, Dr. Britt Blackwell and State Superintendent Jim Rex. The



scholarship is named in honor of Mrs. Stokes, a Florence native who was president of the South Carolina PTA from 1953-1956, and was supported by her husband, Dr. J. Howard Stokes. It's now supported and administered by the state PTA and its local units. Eight scholarships were awarded this year.